The Cause of White Joints and Mouldy Bricks and their Remedies.

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The white incrustation, which appears on many buildings, shortly after they are finished, sometimes on the bricks and sometimes on the mortar joint, has been frequently ascribed to causes more or less incorrect. After an investigation of a great many months, we believe that we have located the cause, and that is a step towards the remedy.

APPEARANCE

In the first place, white incrustation may be due to chloride of calcium which frequently occurs in some qualities of lime; chloride of calcium is a chemical which attracts moisture and is known as hygroscopic. That, together with a small amount of salt which may be present in the mortar, will produce a kind of crystallized incrustation which will not disappear

CAUSE

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for years. It being of itself continually damp, the germs of the air settle in the dampness, and form mildew.

REMEDY

A safe remedy for this is a good application of Builders Acid (Nitric Acid, 36 degrees.)

Another method in which white incrustation occurs, is by the use of Linseed Oil over a brick surface which has shortly before been washed down with acid. If the front be not entirely dry, the acid and the oil form an emulsion, and the albumen (white of egg) which is contained in the oil, settles as a hard white substance on the brick or on the joint, and it takes months and sometimes years for this to disappear. Oiling fronts is not advised except after the building has been erected more than six months, and then, the oil should be

CAUSE

applied in the spring of the year only.

No painter would, nor would you allow any painter to apply paint over a wet surface. Why should oil be applied over damp bricks, much less if they be acid? On buff and fancy bricks where no oil is used no white incrustations appear.

COM-
PARISON

The use of TOCH BROTHERS' EDINBURGH MORTAR COLORS is in itself a safeguard against white incrustations and mould, and of the many great architects who have specified these mortar colors there is not one who does not continue it. The fact that over ninety per cent. of the building trade of the city of New York use TOCH BROTHERS' EDINBURGH MORTAR COLORS is proof positive of their superior quality.

REMEDY

CHEMICAL CONCLUSION

Many grades of lime contain slight amounts of chloride of calcium and the use of TOCH BROTHERS, EDINBURGH MORTAR COLORS which are almost entirely pure oxide of iron, converts the chloride of calcium into chloride of iron and lime. The chloride of iron will in time be converted into oxide of iron and the lime will change into a hardened joint (carbonate of lime.)

WHAT TO AVOID

Muriatic Acid (Hydrochloric Acid) is not advisable as a front wash because it is likely to produce white excrescence (chloride of calcium) even when it is not originally present in the lime. We strongly advise every architect and builder to use nothing but Nitric Acid, 36 degrees.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

EDINBURGH COLORS WHICH WE MAKE

Red, Brown, Buff, Terra Cotta, Olive Green, Grey, Black and special shades to order.

PROPORTIONS

By weight, fifty pounds is usually used to 1000 bricks.

By measure, one pail of color to ten pails of mortar.

WALL FINISH

One pound of color to one yard of square sand finish, will make a desirable shade. More or less can be used as desired.

USES AND METHODS

Our colors can be used both in hot and cold lime. If the mortar color is frozen it can be thawed and will be just as good as ever. Samples sent on application, free of charge, except expressage. Hoe in well to secure uniform shade, best satisfaction obtained if colors be used by measure.

EDINBURGH MORTAR COLORS

TRADE MARK REGISTERED.

ESTABLISHED 1848.

TOCH BROTHERS, 35 Bowery

NEW YORK, U. S. A.